



**H.R. 3159 - To mandate minimum periods of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 3159 is being considered on the floor pursuant to a rule. The rule:

This legislation was introduced by Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) on July 24, 2007, and was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Armed Services, by a recorded vote of 32-25 with 2 present, on July 27, 2007.

H.R. 3159 is expected to be considered on the floor on August 2, 2007.

**Summary**

H.R. 3159 would prohibit active duty units or members the Armed Forces from being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom unless the period of rest for the unit or member was equal to or longer than the length of the unit or member's previous deployment.

The bill also would prohibit units or members of the National Guard or Reserve components from being deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom unless the period of rest for the unit or member was at least three times the period of the previous deployment of that unit or member.

The bill permits the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to waive these limitations, provided that the President certifies to Congress within 30 days of the deployment that the deployment is necessary to meet a threat to the national security interests of the United States.

The limitations also can be waived to permit individuals to voluntarily deploy to Iraq by the:

- Chief of Staff of the Army;
- Chief of Naval Operations;

- Commandant of the Marine Corps;
- Chief of Staff of the Air Force; or,
- Commandant of the Coast Guard.

### **Background**

The Department of Defense has a current redeployment goal for active members of the Armed Forces of one year of deployment to two years at home station (or a 1:2 ratio). The DOD's optimal goal for the National Guard and reserve components is a 1:5 ratio.

The Marine Corps, historically has sought a deployment ratio of 1:2, a 6-month deployment. Currently, the Marines are on a 1:1 ratio, which has averaged out to be 7 months at home station and 7 months deployed.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates issued an interim Army deployment policy in May regarding all active Army units deployed or scheduled for deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. That policy stated that units "will deploy for not more than 15 months and return home for not less than 12 months."

### **Additional Views**

"The bill would prohibit the deployment of active and reserve component units that did not meet certain minimum stand-down or 'dwell time' requirements between deployments. Such prohibitions intrude heavily and inappropriately into the constitutional duties of the President as Commander in Chief."

*--Dissenting Views filed by the Republicans on the Committee on Armed Services, which was signed by 15 Republicans who expressed that they would oppose H.R. 3159.*

### **Cost**

"In any cases where the President chose to exercise the waiver authority provided by this bill, H.R. 3159 would have no significant budgetary effect, because the deployment of those high demand units would continue in the same manner as under current law. However, in those cases where the President chose not to exercise the waiver authority, there could be significant costs or savings depending on which actions the President undertook to comply with the requirements of this bill." [Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate](#)

### **Staff Contact**

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